Projected Demand of Steel

*167. SHRI S. AUSTIN:

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELL-APPA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleasde to state:

(a) the projected demand for steel in the country by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government have formulated any special scheme to meet this demand;

(c) if so. the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Projected domestic demand of finished steel by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97) is 20.74 million tonnes.

(b) to (d) In order to meet the increasing demand of steel. Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants has been taken up. Government also have adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the Private Sector. These include:

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory l'censing.

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes - of foreign investment;

(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;

(V) redution of duty on import of capital goods,; and

(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

Hunger Strike by Research Scholars of Delhi University

*168. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some research scholars of Delhi University resorted to an indefinite hunger strike outside the office of UGC in February-March, 1995;

(b) if so, the names of such scholars with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the demands of strikers included relaxations with regard to the National Eligibility Test for appointment of lecturers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any decision on these demands has since been taken; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by the UGC, one Shri Ashok Kumar Nayak addressed a letter to the UGC on 1-2-1995 stating that in case the relaxations sought by Delhi Univer. sity in regard to the Nat'onal Education Test (NET) are not allowed by the Commission, he would go on an indefinite fast w.e.f. 13-2-1995.

The demands of Shri Nayak included a request for exemption from NET for a number of categories of persons working as Lecturers on permanent/ temporary| ad-hoc basis in the Delhi University; for persons holding M.Phil|Ph.D. degree; and for posts in subjects for which no NET is conducted bjy the UGC|CSIR.